

Weekly Column for June 16, 2005

It's that time of year again in the City of Troy. For the second straight year we're kicking off the summer in style as downtown plays host to the Second Annual River Street Festival.

Much like last year, the show will focus primarily on River Street as we shut down the road from Monument Square (at City Hall) to Congress Street. This year we have added a third stage of entertainment at State Street, which should give everyone something to participate in during the day long festival.

For those interested in the musical aspect of the show, we have an unbelievable lineup, including national recording artists the Charms, who will be playing a 45-minute set at the end of the show. Also playing is Brenda V, The Staynz, Black Cat Elliot, Big Frank and the Bargin Bingers, School Bus Yellow, Cliff Street and the Greyhounds. Local favorites Super 400 will warm up for The Charms at the Congress Street stage sometime around 3:30 p.m.

The third stage, which as I said will be located near Artie's River Street Stage, will consist of acoustic music for the shoppers during the day. And for the obscure music lover in you, we will have underground media artists performing "underground" on the Second Floor of the City Hall parking garage throughout the day.

Outside of music, the slogan "Arts and Antiques, Entertainment and Eats" fits perfectly. We have well over 50 juried art vendors that will be selling paintings, jewelry, pottery and anything else you can think of. We also have numerous antiques dealers, an amazing variety of food, and of course, magic.

Last year, Jeffrey Jene amazed the crowd with his magical routine, and he has agreed to participate once again. The Tri-City Valley Cats will be on hand with their mascot and games for the kids to enjoy. The annual Fence Show at the Arts Center of the Capital Region also opens up on Saturday.

When we say there is a little bit of everything to do, we're really not kidding. Even the sidewalk chalk art is making a comeback this year, as several local artists will be drawing murals on Second Street in front State of Grace.

All of the fun begins on Saturday at 10 a.m. and lasts until around 6 p.m. So make sure to bring down the whole family and rediscover downtown Troy all over again.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy